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## NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

VACCINATION FOR WHOOPING COUGH.—The *New York State Journal of Medicine* reports the results of the vaccination of 10,000 children against whooping cough. Less than 5 per cent acquired the disease. Two of the children were exposed to whooping cough immediately after being vaccinated, but did not contract the disease for a year. Thirty-five patients had the disease after vaccination, but in about half these cases it was in a modified form.

EYES AND MOVING PICTURES.—The *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* concludes that under favorable conditions moving pictures do not cause as much fatigue as the same period of intent reading. Under unfavorable conditions they may cause unpleasant and harmful results. Usually when there is ocular discomfort the patient has some ocular defect. It is stated that no case of permanent harm to the eyes from this cause has been discovered in current literature.

MENACE OF MOUTH INFECTIONS.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* in a summary of conclusions in an article on this subject says that chronic invalidism may be caused by mouth infections. The same cause may be responsible for many serious conditions, such as the enlargement of the thyroid gland, glycosuria, and possibly true diabetes mellitus, ulcer of the stomach, pyelitis, appendicitis, chronic colitis and others. Disturbances of the blood, heart, kidneys, joints, stomach and intestines are frequent from mouth infections. Pneumonia, especially that which follows influenza, may be caused by pneumococci long carried in the patient's mouth. Crowned teeth and bridge work are sources of danger, also imperfectly filled and dead teeth and the existence of pyorrhea alveolaris. Röntgenograms should be taken from time to time to show the state of the hidden parts.

ELECTRICAL STERILIZATION OF MILK.—A series of investigations has been carried out in Liverpool and reported in the *British Journal of State Medicine*. It has been found that the electrical method of treating milk will destroy the disease-bearing bacteria present in it. The milk-souring bacteria are either completely destroyed or rendered negligible. The milk will keep perfectly sweet for at least three or four days after the treatment. Chemical analysis has shown that the chemical constitution of the milk is unimpaired and the taste is unaltered. The electrically treated milk is free from tubercle bacilli. It is perfectly satisfactory as infants' food.

AIRPLANE AMBULANCE.—The *Medical Record* says a recent cablegram from Paris describes the testing of an airplane fitted with two stretchers for carrying wounded soldiers. The airplane ambulance has been constructed by the French Army Aeronautic Service and during a twelve-minute flight covered the equivalent of a twelve-mile journey. A French surgeon says this method of transportation is peculiarly adapted to conveying severely wounded; the equilibrium of the airplane is so perfect that there is no unnecessary pain to the patient.

HEMORRHAGE IN PREGNANCY.—In a paper on this subject in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* the writer states that bleeding during pregnancy is always abnormal and calls for immediate and careful diagnosis of its cause. Placenta praevia announces itself by bleeding without pain, without apparent cause, frequently when the patient is sitting or lying down. If the pregnancy has continued more than three months it should excite instant suspicion.

BOTULISM.—In an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on the danger of poisoning by vegetables canned by the cold pack method, the author states that he has examined a considerable quantity of fruit thus canned in which fermentation had begun, and he had found the *B. botulinus* present. Guinea pigs inoculated with cultures from this source died within twenty-four hours. He advises that all food preserved by the cold pack canning process should be thoroughly heated before being eaten, or even tasted.

CANCER INFECTION.—A writer in the *Maryland Medical Journal* says upon this point of supreme interest to nurses, that the contagiousness or infectiousness of cancer is far from being proved, the evidence to support this theory being so incomplete and inconclusive that the public need have no concern regarding it. The communication of cancer from man to man is so rare, if it really occurs at all, that it may be practically disregarded. Those in charge of, or in contact with, sufferers from external cancer with discharges need only take the same precautionary measures as would be adopted in the care of any ulcer, or open septic wound. There is much less danger to the attendant than there is of septic infection, or blood poisoning, from pus organisms.

ANTIPHONES.—The *Medical Record* suggests an "ear truss" for the use of students and others who wish to shut out noise for a time. The external meatus should be plugged with cotton and a pad laid over the tragus to cover the ear entirely. This should be held in place by a C-shaped spring. For a soldier, who must be able to hear the word of command, whistles, etc., an empty gelatine capsule of the proper size is warmed, oiled, and inserted in the meatus. Cotton tampons coated with vaseline, or plugs

of chewing gum covered with lint may be inserted in the ears to prevent patients on the operating table from overhearing chance remarks.

EXTENSION OF PRIVILEGE.—Harvard University announces that it will admit women to the classes in its medical department.

THE NORMAL EYE DEFECTIVE.—A writer in the *New York Medical Journal* states that after thirty years of study of the refraction of the eye under different conditions he is convinced that the normal eye has imperfect sight most of the time. In an examination of 20,000 school children it was found that the sight of individuals varied at different times of the day, the best being subject to lapses into imperfection. He advises eye training by means of the Snellen card, with this the vision improves and becomes better than the average normal eye. Children wearing glasses to benefit imperfect vision, pain and fatigue of the eyes and headache, were relieved so completely that they were able to discard their glasses and obtained more perfect sight and greater relief than their glasses had afforded.

MALARIA TREATED BY HYPODERMICS.—A writer in *Clinical Medicine* is of the opinion that the hypodermic injection of quinine and urea hydrochloride for malaria produces much better results than when quinine is given by mouth. When quinine is given by mouth there is often a coagulated condition of the stomach and bowels and therefore little or no absorption of the medicine. A calomel purge is first given.

COURT PLASTER NOT SURGICALLY CLEAN.—In *Public Health Reports* it is announced that out of thirteen specimens of court plaster examined, two were contaminated with tetanus bacilli. The specimens examined were obtained from drug stores, in the original packages as sold to consumers. It is not believed the contamination was intentional.

POTATOES IN BREAD.—The Paris letter of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* says that experiments have proved the value of the addition of potato to flour in making bread. The addition of boiled potatoes in the proportion of 20 per cent has been found to make the bread equally as good, if not better, than that now in use without it. It also keeps fresh longer. A round loaf cut ten days after it was baked was still fit for use.

CASTOR OIL AS A DRESSING.—A French medical journal recommends castor oil as a dressing for wounds. It never dries, so that gauze impregnated with it does not stick to the surface, even after prolonged contact. To counteract the odor, 0.4 cc. each of oil of thyme, lavender and eucalyptus were added to each liter of castor oil.